

Table 1 - Outthinking the AIF

| | Pre-Sovereignty | Post-Sovereignty | Post-Election |
|---|--|--|--|
| Nature of the Iraqi Government | CPA-run government | Appointed government | Iraqi-elected government |
| Governing Authority's Legitimacy | AIF threatens Coalition's willingness to stay engaged | AIF threatens government's legitimacy | IG has demonstrated ability to hold elections in the face of AIF threat |
| Iraqi Public's Attitudes | Strong support from Iraqis for ouster of Hussein | Many "fence sitters" outside of AIF and government | "Fence sitters" either integrated into political process or further disenfranchised – fewer undecideds |
| Nature of the Coalition | Strong Coalition coming out of major combat operations | Public support diminishing in some Coalition countries | Potential for some Coalition members to withdraw |
| Signs of Progress | No definitive timetable | Coalition working toward a major milestone | Coalition has accomplished a major milestone, working toward the next |

Source: Maj William C. Thomas, USAF, "Outthinking the AIF," *Strategic Insights*, Volume IV, Issue 1 (January 2005), www.ccc.navy.mil/si/2005/jan/thomasJan05.asp.